

Members

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson  
Sen. Connie Sipes  
Rep. Mary Kay Budak  
Rep. William Crawford  
Pamela Leffers  
Mary Jane Scamahorn  
Kimberly Armstrong  
Mark Young  
Susan Tucker  
Mara Snyder  
Anne Valentine  
Melanie Brizzi  
Becky Dennis  
Sharon Molargik  
Ann Stefaniak  
Tonette Murff  
Bonnie Miller



## COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE

*Legislative Services Agency*  
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789  
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Ann Naughton, Attorney for the Committee  
Sarah Brooks, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: P.L. 107-2005

### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** October 10, 2006  
**Meeting Time:** 2:00 P.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 431  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 2

**Members Present:** Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Rep. William Crawford; Pam Leffers; Mary Jane Scamahorn; Mark Young; Susan Tucker; Anne Valentine; Melanie Brizzi; Becky Dennis; Sharon Molargik; Ann Stefaniak; Tonette Murff; Bonnie Miller.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Connie Sipes; Kimberly Armstrong; Mara Snyder.

Sen. Lawson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and asked Ms. Brizzi to provide the requested follow up information based on the members' questions during the Committee's September 19, 2006, meeting.

#### Follow up concerning member questions raised on September 19, 2006

Ms. Brizzi provided a folder containing several documents<sup>2</sup>, provided explanation, and

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

<sup>2</sup> Attachment 1.

answered questions concerning the documents reflecting the: (a) number of children on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) waiting list in each county during the past year; (b) CCDF voucher program information according to geographic region; (c) process for establishing the CCDF market rate for each county; and (d) child care provider capacity in licensed and registered child care facilities. Ms. Brizzi stated that the CCDF budget is reviewed every two weeks to determine whether a county is "overobligated" or "underobligated", meaning that the county has committed more resources for CCDF voucher payments than the county currently has, or has not committed as many resources for CCDF voucher payments as the county currently has. She explained that the goal is to keep the obligations at approximately 97% of the resources available, and that children are removed from or kept on the CCDF waiting list in a county based on whether funds are available. She noted that families moving or not claiming vouchers, and eligibility under the Temporary Aid to Needy Families program, are some reasons for underobligation or overobligation.

In response to questions from Rep. Crawford, Ms. Brizzi stated that when a county is determined to be underobligated, the county contacts more families on the waiting list than the number of families for which resources are available to provide documentation to be removed from the list. This is because approximately 20% of those contacted do not respond, and of those that do respond, some do not provide the appropriate documentation to allow them to be removed from the list. This sometimes results in some families being contacted, but not being removed from the waiting list.

### Quality Rating System

Ms. Brizzi referred to a document contained in the folder that she distributed providing information concerning development of a child care quality rating system in Indiana. She explained that the system, if implemented, would provide information useful to parents in determining where to place their children for child care. She mentioned studies concluding that early childhood academic success is important to future success. In response to a question from Rep. Crawford, Ms. Brizzi stated that the quality rating would be done according to type of child care provider.

Sheron Cochran, Indiana Department of Education, discussed the history and process of linking "Foundations to the Indiana Academic Standards for Young Children from Birth to Age Five" to the "Paths to Quality" program for child care. She stated that: (1) the Paths to Quality program uses "Foundations" as a program component to provide a framework to support the academic development of children; and (2) a quality early childhood experience includes attention to health and safety, building positive relationships, and intellectual stimulation.

Anita Allison, Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral, explained that Foundations and Paths to Quality are based on the same body of knowledge, though they were developed separately at different times. Both documents encourage adults to interact with children in certain ways, including: (1) modeling in the classroom; (2) creating challenges for intellectual growth; (3) specific direction; and (4) organizing the environment to encourage children to learn. She stated that there are four levels for child care providers to achieve in the Paths to Quality program, including: (1) health and safety; (2) nurturing and safe environment to encourage social and intellectual development; (3) plan curriculum with Foundations as a guide; and (4) ongoing professional development for adults and accreditation by national organizations.

Teresa Reidt and Madeline Baker, Early Childhood Alliance, provided several handouts<sup>3</sup> concerning Paths to Quality pilot programs in northeastern Indiana. Ms. Baker provided a brief history of the pilot programs and explained that it is a voluntary program for child care providers. Ms. Reidt stated that the goal is to allow parents to choose the type of child care that is best for their child and noted that the brochures that are distributed provide parents with information that is useful regardless of whether a child care provider participates in Paths to Quality. She explained that there is a focus on mentoring and annual verification of what level the child care provider is maintaining or attaining, and that completion of all levels is not required. She then discussed the marketing aspects of Paths to Quality among parents and child care providers.

In response to questions from Sen. Lawson, Rep. Budak, and Ms. Murff, Ms. Reidt stated that: (1) several organizations have provided funding for the pilot programs and there is no fee for participation; and (2) many child care ministries are moving toward completing Paths to Quality, but most have more work to do to meet the requirements than licensed child care providers because many of the requirements are required for licensure.

Ms. Molargik stated that she participates in Paths to Quality and affirms the statements of Ms. Reidt and Ms. Baker. Ms. Leffers stated that she believes that requirements for fences and medical statements are the main barriers for many child care providers to progressing beyond level one in Paths to Quality.

Tom Rayl, Abacus Child Care Centers, provided a copy of his testimony and some additional documents<sup>4</sup>. He expressed concerns about a "star rating system" and discussed child care center regulations in Indiana and other states. Ms. Stefaniak stated that she believes that the goal of such a rating system is to put the responsibility for educating the child on the child care provider, rather than the parents. Mr. Rayl stated that he is not against Paths to Quality, but he is against a third party specifying what "quality" is for his child care centers.

Sen. Lawson expressed her thoughts that many of Mr. Rayl's comments have been previously addressed by FSSA and the Committee and seem to be directed toward child care center regulations, rather than a quality rating system. She noted that FSSA has plans to revise the child care center regulations after the revision of the child care home regulations is completed.

Mary Jane Scamahorn, testifying as the President-elect of the Indiana Association of Licensed Child Care Centers, provided two handouts<sup>5</sup> concerning child care regulations and licensure of child care centers. She discussed competition between types of child care providers and her belief that regulations and a quality rating system that apply to all types of child care providers would be preferable to separate requirements.

#### Working in Child Care in Indiana

Dianna Wallace, Executive Director, Indiana Association for the Education of Young

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<sup>3</sup>Attachment 2.

<sup>4</sup>Attachment 3.

<sup>5</sup>Attachment 4.

Children, provided written information<sup>6</sup> and discussed the results of "Working in Child Care in Indiana", a 2005 survey of licensed and registered child care facility directors. She noted that: (1) child care providers are not paid well in Indiana; (2) many child care facility directors have an associate degree or higher education; and (3) many plan to leave the child care field due to low wages. Ms. Wallace advocated making public policy decisions concerning child care based on factual information rather than emotion, which she stated is frequently a part of discussions concerning child care policy.

#### Economic Dimensions of Child Care Public Awareness Campaign

Carole Stein, President, The Stein Group, provided two documents<sup>7</sup> and discussed a series of nine meetings held throughout the state with representatives from 55 Indiana counties and business representatives concerning the relationship between child care, business, and economic development. Ms. Stein stated that she has concluded that child care providers do not, but should, view themselves as important, and that they should also market their services to businesses. She also stated that county plans should include child care as part of the county's economic development agenda.

Morton Marcus, Director Emeritus, Indiana Business Research Center, IU Kelley School of Business, discussed specific results of the "Discovering an Economic Edge in the Hoosier State" document, including: (1) the need to increase wages and employment in child care; (2) a calculation to determine the amount of income generated by child care in Vigo county, the results of which reflected an income return equal to ten times the amount spent on child care; and (3) child care should be an economic development agenda and marketing item, but improved data is needed concerning the current status of children in Indiana.

In response to questions from Rep. Budak, Rep. Crawford, and Sen. Lawson, Ms. Stein and Mr. Marcus stated that: (1) the chambers of commerce in local communities have attended the meetings and there are plans to talk with the state chamber of commerce, but the smaller chambers of commerce represent small businesses which are more likely to need outside child care for employees than large businesses which frequently provide child care; (2) improved data concerning child care in Indiana is important to addressing the manufacturing association and state chamber of commerce regarding this issue; (3) the current study must be completed before final recommendations concerning these issues will be made by Ms. Stein and Mr. Marcus; and (4) funding for this study was provided by private organizations and FSSA.

#### Other Business

Sen. Lawson noted the information concerning preschools in public schools provided to the members in preparation for the October 31, 2006, meeting. She requested that members notify Ms. Naughton before October 19, 2006, with any proposed legislation and recommendations for the Committee's final report. Sen. Lawson stated that she has requested proposed legislation extending the Committee's existence and requested that any suggested changes to the Committee structure be provided to her before October 19, 2006.

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<sup>6</sup>Attachment 5.

<sup>7</sup>Attachment 6.

With no further business to discuss, Sen. Lawson adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.